

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6121

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6810

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON LABOR SCENE

REF: LIMA 6514

1. MINeworkers STRIKING AT SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION'S (SPCC) TOQUEPALA MINE RETURNED TO WORK AUGUST 8 (REFTE). CENTROMIN WORKERS AT CASAPALCA RETURNED TO THEIR JOBS AUGUST 4 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE JULY 25. WHILE RMORS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE IN LIMA OF A NEW WORK STOPPAGE BY THE TEACHER' UNION (SUTEP) AND EVEN POSSIBLY ANOTHER "GENERAL" STRIKE SUCH AS THE ONE WHICH PARALYZED LIMA JULY 19, THERE IS NO SOLID EVIDENCE THAT THESE STRIKES WILL OCCUR OR ARE EVEN BEING CONSIDERED SERIOUSLY AT THIS TIME.

2. THE GOP HAS ADMITTED THAT 1800 LABOR ORGANIZERS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FROM THEIR JOBS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ILLEGAL JULY 19 STRIKE. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ MET WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FAR-LEFT BANKWORKERS UNION DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 1 AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOSCOW-LINE LABOR CONFEDERATION (CGTP), WHOSE LIMA HEADQUARTERS REMAIN CLOSED BY GOVERNMENT ORDER, AUGUST 10. THE PRESIDENT HEARD COMPLAINTS OF ABUSES BY PRIVATE COMPANIES IN FIRING WORKERS. HE PROMISED THAT
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THE LABOR MINISTER WOULD "THOROUGHLY" REVIEW EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE AND RESTORE WORKERS TO THEIR JOBS IF NECESSARY.

3. JULIO CRUZADO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE APRA-BACKED (CTP) LABOR CONFEDERATION, TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 10 THAT THE CTP FEELS IT HAS BEEN "GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT" TO

ORGANIZE AND GAIN INFLUENCE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE
COMMUNIST CGTP. THE CTP DID NOT JOIN WITH OTHER
UNIONS IN THE JULY 19 STRIKE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE GOP CONTINUES TO FOLLOW THE
"HARD-LINE ON ILLEGAL STRIKES, IT HAS BEEN MAKING AN EFFORT LATELY TO
SEEM MORE CONCILIATORY TOWARD THE PLIGHT OF THE ECONOMICALLYHARDPRESS
ED
WORKING CLASS SECTOR. WHILE PERMITTING THE FIRING LABOR LEADERS, IT
IS REQUIRING COMPANIES TO REPLACE INDIVIDUALS DISMISSED SO THAT
NO "JOBS" ARE LOST TOTHE WORKING FORCE. IN ADDITION, BY
MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIONS THAT LED THE JULY
19 STRIKE, PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ IS ATTEMPTING PERHAPS TO MODERA
TE
RCENT LABOR/GOP CONFRONTATIONS.
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